physical requirement for attaining faster growth in a competitive world, the Eleventh Plan lays special emphasis for infrastructure development. The total investment needed in infrastructure, defined to include electric power, roads, railways, ports, airports, telecommunications, irrigation, drinking water, sanitation, storage and warehousing is projected to increase to almost 9% of GDP by the terminal year of the Eleventh Plan. There is no projection as to the status of the economy in 2020 AD.

National Knowledge Commssion

†1496. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has set up a National Knowledge Commission during the last years;

(b) if so the date on which this Commission was set up alongwith the responsibilities entrusted to it;

(c) whether the Commission has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the salient features of this report; and

(e) the action taken by Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) was constituted on 13th June 2005 as a high level advisory body to the Prime Minister of India. The Terms of Reference of NKC are as follows:

- Build excellence in the educational system to meet the knowledge challenges of the 21st century and increase India's competitive advantage in fields of knowledge.
- Promote creation of knowledge in Science and Technology laboratories
- Improve the management of institutions engaged in Intellectual Property Rights
- Promote knowledge applications in Agriculture and Industry
- Promote the use of knowledge capabilities in making government an effective, transparent and accountable service provider to the citizen and promote widespread sharing of knowledge to maximize public benefit.

(c) to (e) The details of reports are available on its website:

http://www.knowledgecommission.gov.in

The reports/recommendations are presently under examination in consultation with the concerned Central Ministries and State Governments.

Recommendation of Knowledge Commssion

1497. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(a) the number of recommendations that have been given by the Knowledge Commission, so far;

(b) the number of recommendations that have been accepted by Government, so far;

(c) the reasons for not accepting the recommendations; and

(d) the Ministries which are involved in the implementation of aforesaid recommendations of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The details of reports are available on its website:

http://www.knowledgecommission.gov.in

(b) to (d) The reports/recommendations are presently under examination in consultation with the concerned Central Ministries and State Governments.

Special category status to Orissa

1498. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CM/Orissa, during the last NDC meeting, while spelling out three-pronged strategy for tackling the challenging task of reduction in regional, social and gender disparities and achieving faster, broad-based and inclusive growth in the Orissa State, has repeated his earlier demand for grant of Special Category status of Orissa State to achieve the objective;

(b) if so, the status thereof; and

(c) the time-frame within which the above long-standing demand of this backward region would be considered and agreed to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Chief Minister of Orissa, in his speech in the 54th NDC meeting, urged the National Development Council to redefine criteria for according Special Category Status to a State, and reiterated the State's claim to be treated as a Special Category State. The NDC has not accepted this demand.

Special package to Rajasthan

†1499. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to grant special package to Rajasthan in public interest keeping in view its various circumstances like two third area of the State being drought prone due to continuous scanty rains and large area adjoining international border, as has been done in case of North Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Manipur and Himachal Pradesh by providing them special status;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any scheme in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.